

# I-15 NOW & Tomorrow

Fall/Winter 2007

Wadsworth's concrete and steel murals are built to last. "We try to make them as maintenance-free as possible," he said. Ogden is in charge of the 31st Street and 24th Street structures. West Haven will decide the theme for 21st Street. Marriott-Slaterville will work on 12th Street and 450 North and Farr West will oversee 1800 North and 2700 North. These cities have not yet selected themes for their bridges, but the final product will reflect some aspect of their history.

The first murals are in place at the 31st Street Bridge over I-15. Ogden City chose the theme of outdoor recreation to promote the year-round opportunities in the area. The northbound side is winter sports, with skiers, a snowboarder, ice skaters, hockey players and snowmobiles. Southbound has summer sports, with backpacker, mountain biker, skateboarder, motocross rider and kayakers.

While some of the art at 31st Street is visible to approaching drivers, those curious to get a good look at the art may have to hope for slow traffic. Many of the murals are below the bridge itself, which requires drivers to divert their eyes from the road to take it all in.

UDOT Spokesman, Andy Neff commented, "We encourage drivers to watch the roadway when they're driving," adding that people may have to be passengers to see the art well. The other bridges, however, will offer easier access to the art because the freeway goes over the bridges, meaning the murals will be visible to people on slower surface streets.



## Work Continues – So Stay Informed

Even as optimism builds about the progress of the I-15 NOW project, we are careful to remind motorists that many major elements of the project are still to be completed. While much of the activity will go on unnoticed during the winter months, businesses, residents and commuters will experience occasional ramps closures and detours while the balance of the interchanges are being constructed next spring and summer.

We encourage you to stay informed about the project by visiting our website: [www.udot.utah.gov/i15now](http://www.udot.utah.gov/i15now) or subscribe to our email update list by sending an email to [dave@frontlinepublic.com](mailto:dave@frontlinepublic.com). The project also provides a hotline phone for more detailed information 888-415-6690 (888-I15-NOW).



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## I-15 NOW Project Achieves Critical Milestones!



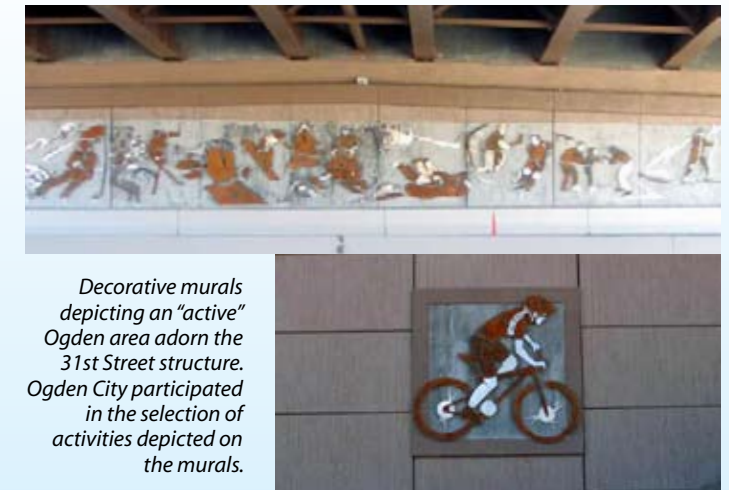
*Aerial View of 31st Street depicts the complete redesign of the busy interchange.)*

### 31st Street Interchange, 2.5 Miles of I-15 Finished Reaction to Finished Portions... Excellent!

Ogden, Utah - Major construction activities throughout the past eighteen months have netted huge gains on the I-15 NOW Project that runs approximately 10.5 miles from the I-84 merge in Riverdale to north of 2700 North in Farr West. UDOT Project Director, Brent DeYoung, reports that the project is quickly approaching the 65% completion mark and that the last of the concrete bridge girders required on the project will be put into place before the end of the year.

"Weber County Constructors has done an excellent job in planning and executing each phase of the project. With favorable weather, the project may progress ahead of schedule during the winter months," according to DeYoung. "During this busy construction season we have worked very hard to keep traffic flowing safely with a minimum of traffic disruptions and deliver the project as quickly as possible."

Construction on Interstate 15 in Weber County still has a year to go, but drivers can get a taste of the makeover as they drive



*Decorative murals depicting an "active" Ogden area adorn the 31st Street structure. Ogden City participated in the selection of activities depicted on the murals.*

near the recently completed area near 31st Street.

The I-15 NOW, or New Ogden Weber, expansion is 65 percent complete and is both on schedule and on budget.

Significant milestones were achieved on the project this past summer. Most notably is completion of the new bridges over I-15 and the Weber River on 31st Street, construction of the new off- and on-ramps on 31st Street, 24th Street and 21st Street, completion of paving and installation of new lighting on 31st Street, and installation of the decorative metal murals on the 31st Street structure.



*A widened 31st Street with ATMS signals and bright lighting add safety and efficiency to the busy interchange.*



## Cooperation between Contractor and Local Businesses a Big Plus

Prior to beginning the construction of new on- and off-ramps at both 24th Street and 21st Street, UDOT expressed concern about potential disruptions to local businesses in the areas. The I-15 NOW team carefully reviewed construction plans and placed extra emphasis on informing businesses of upcoming disruptions. The result: impacts on businesses were often less than expected. Feedback from several of those businesses was extremely positive.



The story of one such business follows...

"When the closure of the northbound 21st Street off-ramp was first announced, we immediately went into panic mode!" according to Clayton Wayman, owner of both the Holiday Inn Express and Comfort Suite properties adjacent to the off-ramp. He continued, "It was announced well in advance that the off-ramp would close on August 5th, right in the middle of our busiest month of the year! We contacted the I-15 NOW Project hotline and were pleasantly surprised to find that we had a 'voice' to the management of the project. We told him the situation and asked if he could just get us one additional week before the ramp closed. The individual promised he understood the seriousness of the planned closure and pledged to see what he could do to work things out with the I-15 NOW team. At that time, we were resigned to taking a huge loss in business and inconveniencing literally hundreds of our customers. Then about a week later, he called and said that after reviewing the entire scope of the planned activities, they might be able to move it not one week but three weeks later, virtually assuring us of our 'high' season traffic!

"From then on, we had several exchanges with project managers and found that they had literally moved mountains to accommodate this change in schedule. Then to our surprise, instead of the new construction taking the 21 days planned, the work was completely finished in 15 days!

"As a special thank you to the whole construction team, we decided that we would hold a 'Thank You!' buffet at our property for all the construction workers who wanted to attend," added Wyman. "We planned the event at the end of the shift so as many as possible could attend." More than 80 individuals from Weber County Constructors participated.

"Needless to say we were pleased and they were happy to help us solve a major conflict!"

## Project Stats really begin to "Add Up!"

The amount of materials used on the I-15 NOW Project is impressive and the numbers are really starting to add up! Following are just some of the quantities of various materials used on the project to date.

Concrete placed . . . . .	20,000 Cubic Yards
Asphalt paved . . . . .	270,000 Tons
Roadbase placed . . . . .	700,000 Tons
Dirt moved . . . . .	860,000 Cubic Yards
Girders set. . . . .	167 Each
Feet of Girders set . . . . .	23,300 Feet
Old Pavement Demo'd . . . . .	138,000 Cubic Yards
Concrete Barrier moved. . . . .	144,000 Feet
UHP paid time . . . . .	1,500 Hours

These statistics are significant in view of the amount of work safely completed on the project. According to Project Safety Manager, Trent Newton, "To date there have been no major injuries on the project. There have been some minor injuries and sprains, but with continued emphasis on creating safety awareness and emphasizing a safe work environment in the work areas, we are optimistic it will pay off in preventing serious accidents." It is important to us that every one of our employees is safe and able to return home to their loved ones every day!" Newton also emphasized how important it is that the traveling public experience every possible safety measure when it comes to providing a safe construction environment to pass through.

## In Passing, Project Art Gets Positive Reviews

Driving on the finished portion of I-15 Now offers some views that are worth talking about! If you haven't noticed already, some beautifully illustrated stylistic art now adorns the wing walls and the stabilizing walls of the 31st Street Interchange. But this is just the beginning!

Original art will be installed on each of the six bridge structures



being reconstructed as part of the I-15 NOW expansion. Each bridge will be decorated with murals or wing wall panels of stainless steel and concrete that depict a theme specific to the city in which it stands. One of our project goals is to improve aesthetics along the roadway and to provide good gateways into the communities that I-15 services.

Each city had the opportunity to choose the theme for its bridge or bridges and to work with UDOT and the artist, Tod Wadsworth, to decide what they would like to depict in each mural. Wadsworth works for one of the project's contractors, Ralph L. Wadsworth Construction. Wadsworth said, "I began doing concrete art when pouring concrete day in and day out got old!" Bridge abutments and retaining walls provide a great medium for artwork, he said. Wadsworth said he hopes to "emphasize the available light" by using reflective metals on certain areas of the mural.

